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Fix NEW CLOTHES to Make Them Last Longer



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Division of Home Economics
Federal Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

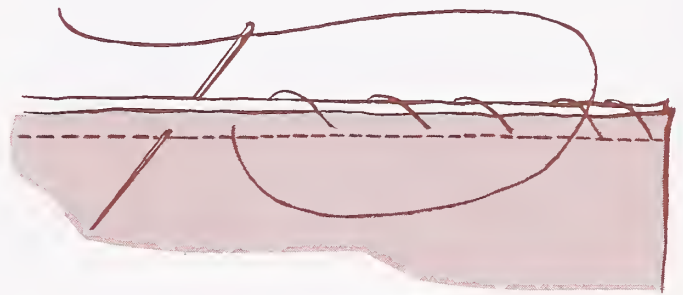
Prepared by a committee headed by Alice Linn, Clothing Specialist,
Division of Home Economics, Federal Extension Service, and Mrs.
Eileen E. Gibson, Extension Textiles and Clothing Specialist, University
of Missouri.

FIX NEW CLOTHES TO MAKE THEM LAST LONGER

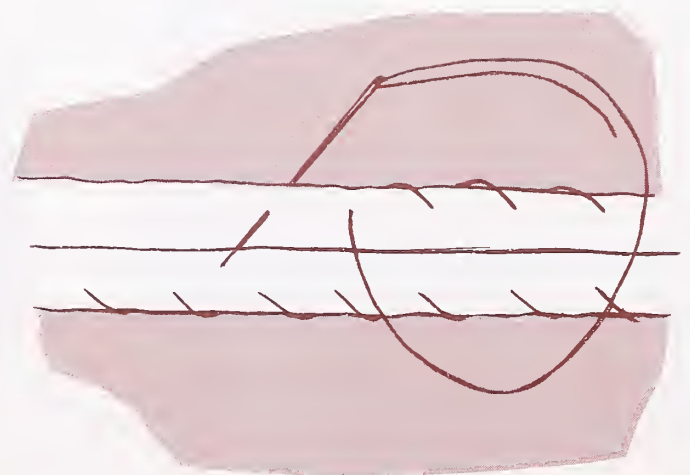
Make new clothes last longer by fixing sewing before the clothes are worn. First, try to buy clothes of good material. Try to get a good fit. You can fix the poor sewing yourself. Fix these clothes before they are worn even once.

OVERCAST SEAM EDGES TO KEEP THEM FROM RAVELING

For lightweight material, keep the seam edges together.

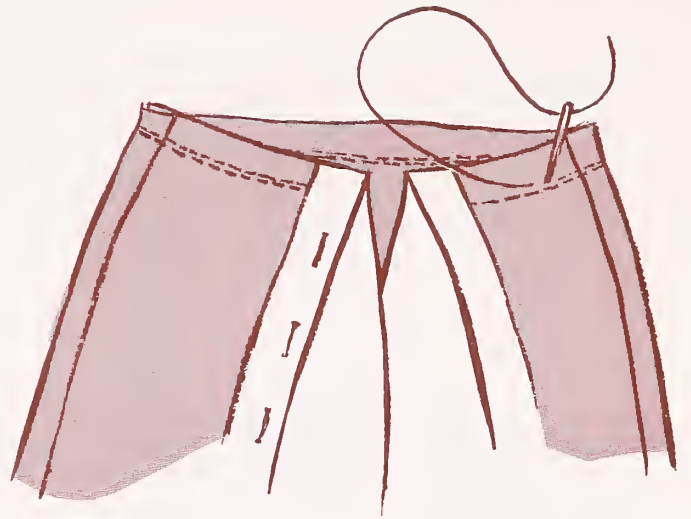


For heavy material, keep the seam open and overcast each edge.



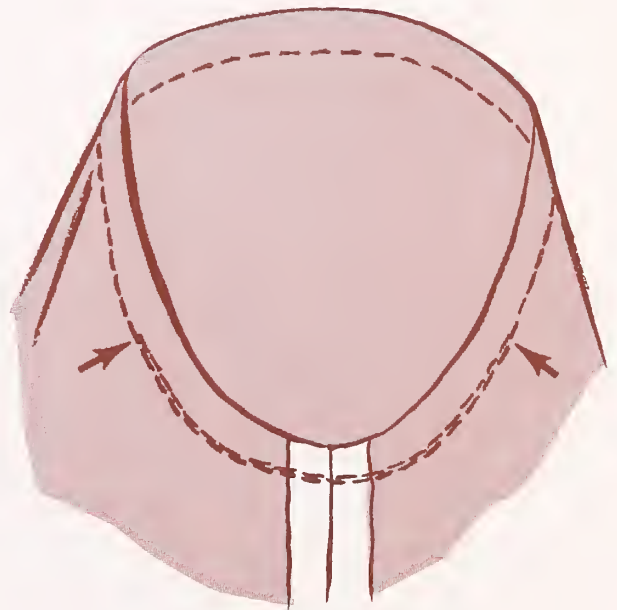
MAKE THE WAISTLINE SEAM OF A DRESS STRONGER

Turn the top of the dress down over the skirt at the waistline seam. Stitch on top of the stitching already there. Backstitch by hand or use a machine.



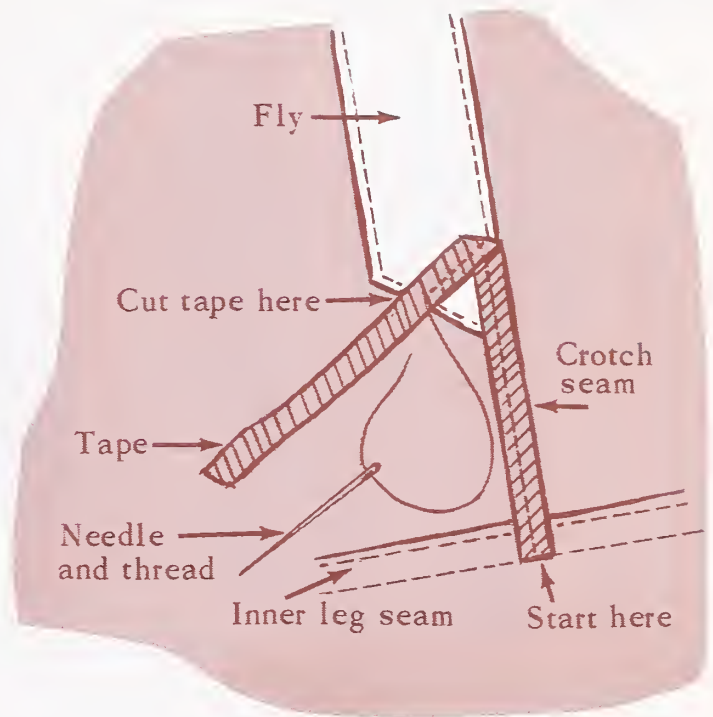
STITCH UNDERARM OF SET-IN SLEEVE

Turn the garment inside out. Make a row of stitching on top of the stitching under the arm.

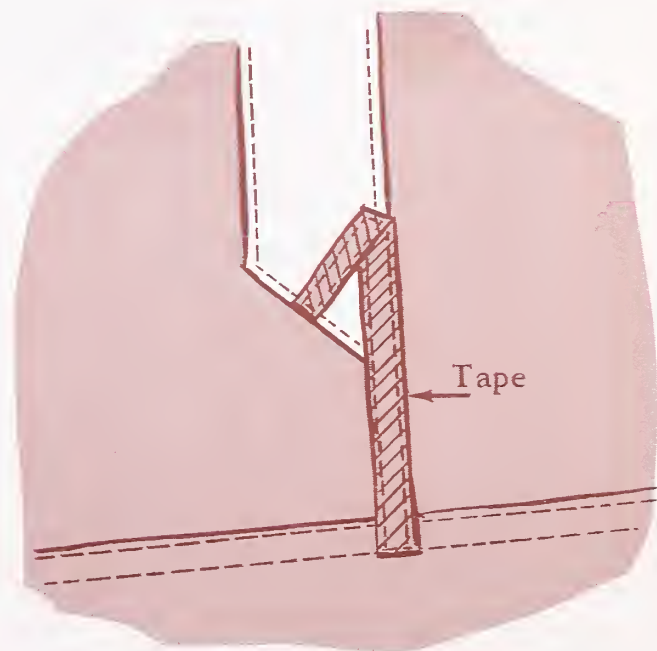


FIX UNDERSHORTS TO KEEP THEM FROM TEARING

1. Turn undershorts inside out. Baste cotton tape along the crotch seam and at the bottom of the fly to form a \wedge . Cut the tape off. You can use a strip of cloth instead of tape.

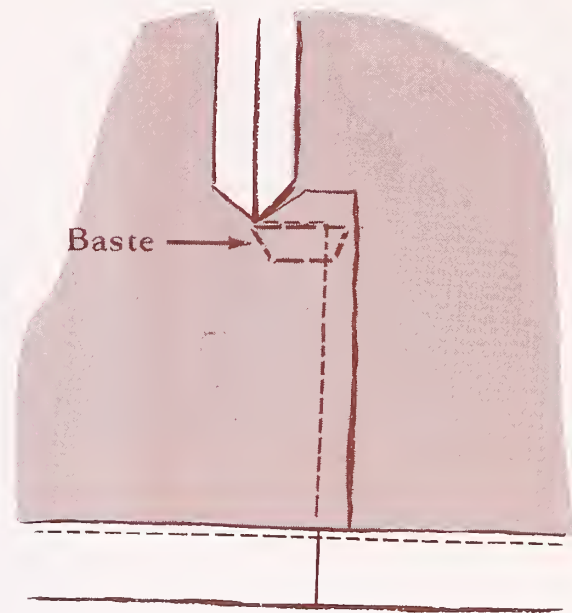


2. Stitch down both edges of the tape. Stitch with backstitch or use a machine. Remove the basting.

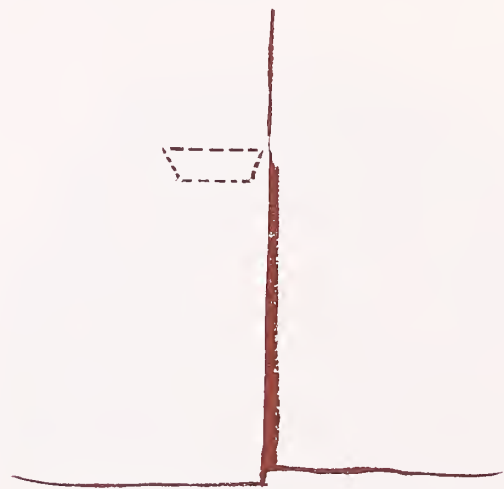


FIX KICK PLEATS TO KEEP THEM FROM TEARING

1. Turn the dress wrong side out. Baste across the top of the kick pleat like this

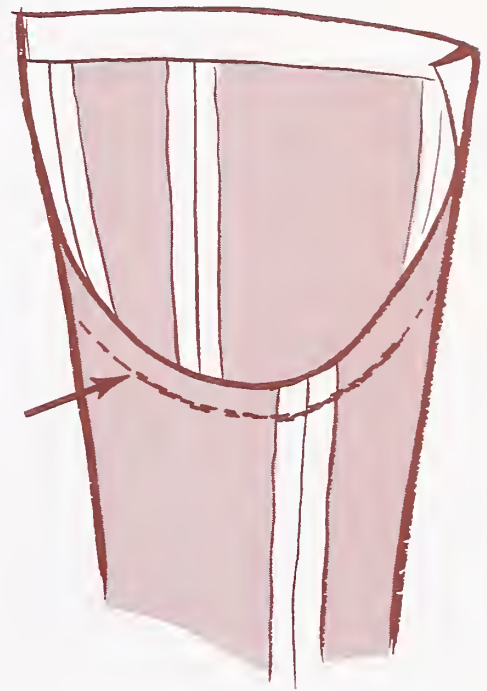


2. Turn the dress or skirt right side out. Stitch along the basting line. Backstitch or use a sewing machine. Pull out the basting thread.



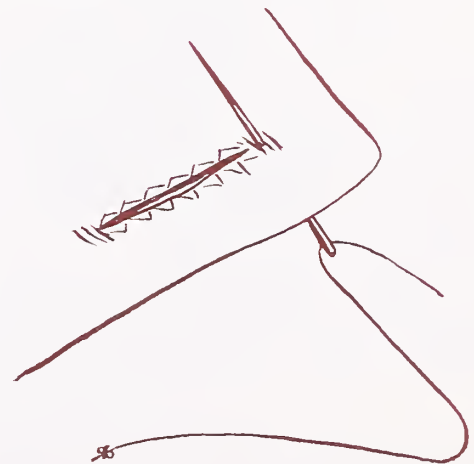
MAKE CROTCH SEAMS STRONGER

Turn the pants inside out. Pull one leg inside the other. Back-stitch by hand or machine stitch around the curve of the crotch on top of the stitching already there.

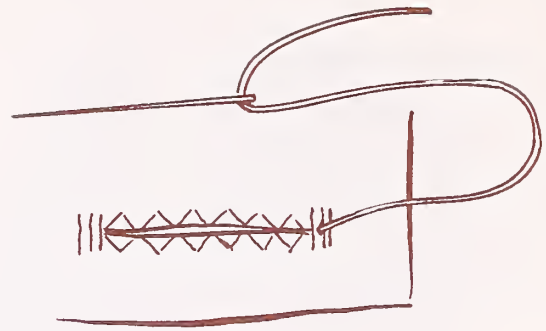


MAKE BUTTONHOLES STRONGER

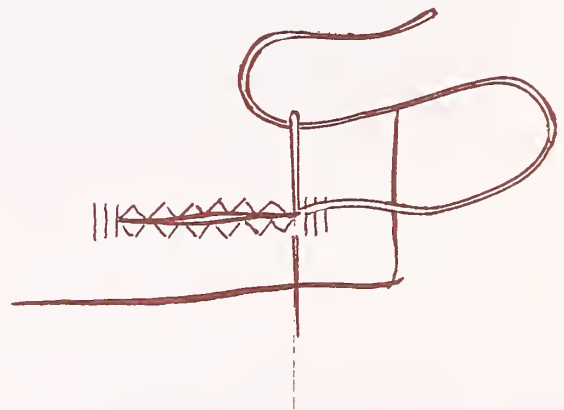
1. Start at one end of the buttonhole. Make a knot in your thread. Push the needle from the underside of the buttonhole through the bar tack already there.



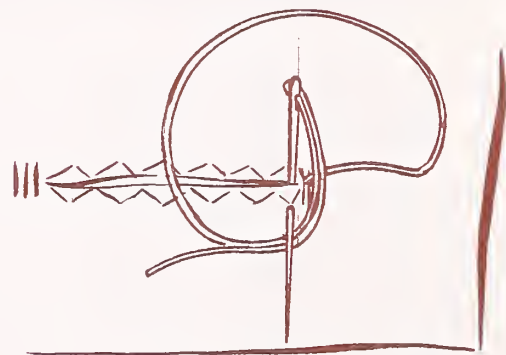
2. Pull all the thread through the cloth.



3. Push the needle in through the slit of the buttonhole. Bring the needle point out next to the stitching already there.



4. Bring the double thread hanging from the eye of the needle from the right to the left under the point of the needle.



5. Pull all the thread through the cloth.



6. Make more stitches like this to the end of the buttonhole. Keep them close together.



7. Push the needle through the middle of the bar tack at the end of the buttonhole. Tie a knot on the wrong side.



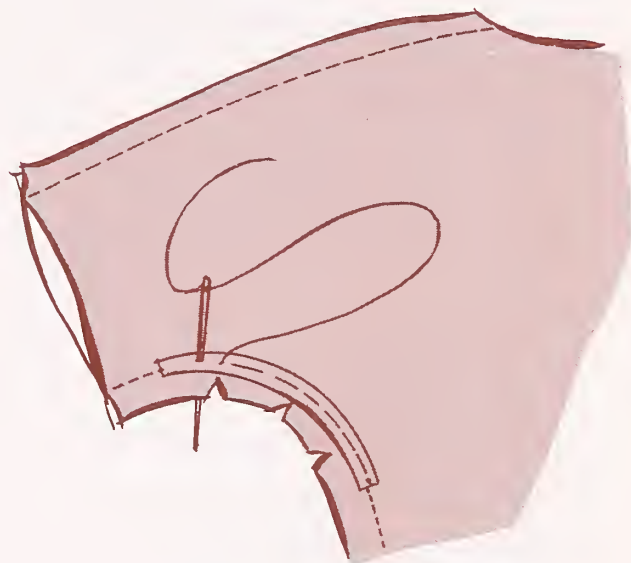
8. Do the other side of the buttonhole the same as you did the first side.

STRENGTHEN A KIMONO SLEEVE

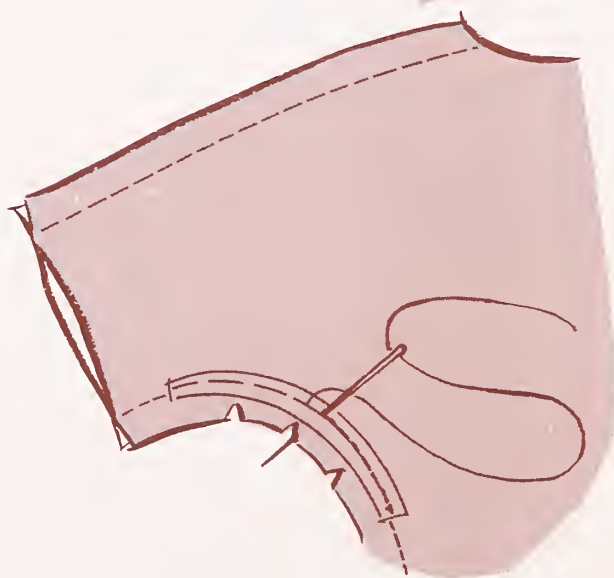
1. Tear a strip of cloth $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. Make it long enough to go along the underarm curve.



2. Baste the strip over the seam line.

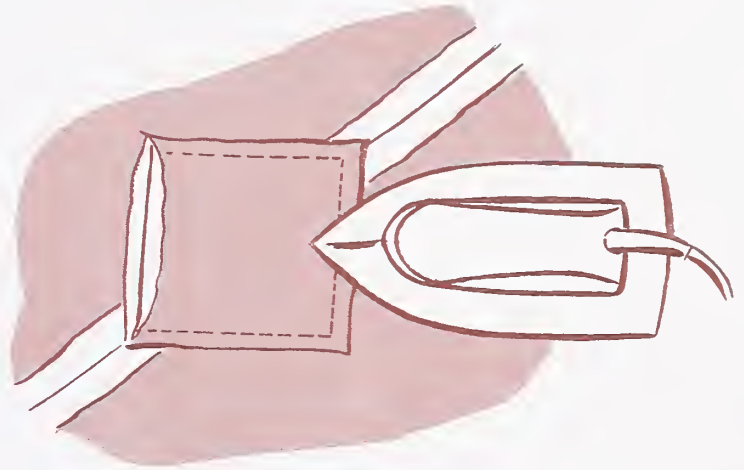


3. Backstitch by hand or machine stitch.
4. Remove the basting thread.

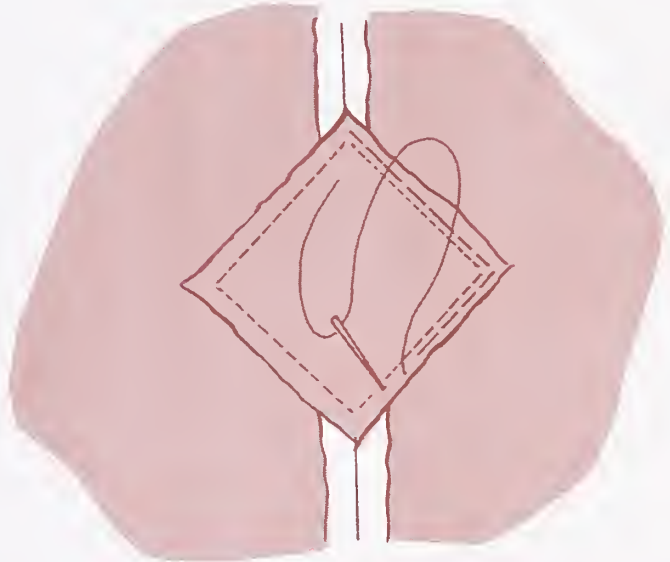


STRENGTHEN AN UNDERARM GUSSET

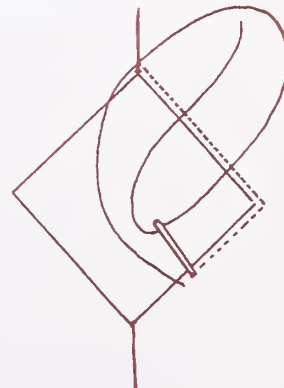
1. Turn the dress wrong side out. Press the gusset seam against the dress.



2. Baste the seam to the dress to hold it flat.



3. Turn the dress right side out. Backstitch by hand or machine stitch close to the seam line.



SEW ON LOOSE BUTTONS

1. Use a double thread with a knot on the end. Make a stitch on the right side of the material at the point marked for the button.
2. Put a pin or small nail on top of the button. Make one stitch through the button over the pin. Then make several more stitches the same way.
3. Take the pin away. Wind the thread between the cloth and the button. Pull it very tight.
4. Push the needle to the wrong side of the cloth. Make a knot on the wrong side of the cloth. Cut the thread.

